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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/694,569	10/23/2000	Jens Hieronymus	A-2577	9800

7590 07/15/2002

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EXAMINER

YAN, REN LUO

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2854

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/694,569

Applicant(s)

HIERONYMUS ET AL.

Examiner

Ren L Yan

Art Unit

2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 April 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Independent claim 2 is directed to a rubber blanket *per se* while dependent claim 8 requires a clamping device which does not form any part of the rubber blanket structure. Thus the metes and bounds of claim 8 is unclear as to whether claim 8 is drawn to a rubber blanket or is drawn to a combination of a rubber blanket and a clamping device.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Berg(3,384,014). The patent to Berg teaches the method of attaching a rubber blanket onto a clamping device of a cylinder as recited in claim 1 and the structure of a rubber blanket as recited in claims 2, 4-6 and 8-11. The Berg patent shows a rubber blanket 19 equipped with a clamping bar 22 having register cut-outs 30 and a clamping device 16 having bolts 31 attached to the cylinder body. The bolts 31 of the clamping device 16 serves to clamp the rubber blanket 19 onto the cylinder as well as to serve as register pins to properly register the position of the rubber blanket 19 when they are in engagement with the cut-outs 30 in the clamping bar 22. See the entire Berg patent for details.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berg in view of Fox et al(5,562,039). The clamping bar of Berg is not disposed only on the underside of the blanket as recited. Fox et al teach in a device for mounting a flexible printing plate onto a cylinder the use of a clamping bar 10 that is disposed only on the underside of the flexible printing plate. See Figs. 3 and 11 in Fox et al for example. In view of the teaching of Fox et al, it would have been obvious to those having ordinary skill in the art to provide the blanket of Berg with a clamping bar which is disposed only on the underside of the blanket as taught by Fox et al in order to reduce the height of blanket portion that protrudes beyond the outer surface of the cylinder.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berg in view of DE 9,416,007. The Berg patent may not use a sealing substance as recited. DE 9,416,007 teaches a printing plate 11 having a clamping bar 24 attached to one end thereof through a sealing substance 13. See Fig. 2 of DE 9,416,007 for example. In view of the teaching of DE 9,416,007, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to attach the clamping bar to the blanket of Berg with a sealing substance so as to achieve the same clamping bar attaching outcome. The mere application of a well known way of attaching a clamping bar onto a blanket based upon its well known properties and intended use by those having ordinary skill in the art would have been most obvious.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ren L Yan whose telephone number is 703-308-0978. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on 703-305-6619. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-5841 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.



Ren L Yan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2854

Ren Yan
July 10, 2002